

Martingham Utilities Cooperative

2008 Drinking Water Quality

PWSID: 020 0004



Important Information about your Drinking Water:

Special points of interest:

- The water from Martingham is tested for over 120 different compounds
- The Martingham drinking water consistently met both State and Federal requirements
- Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some compounds. The presence of these compounds does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (1-800-426-4791)

We're pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for 2008. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Maryland Environmental Service, an Agency of the State of Maryland, operates the water treatment facility and prepared this report on behalf of Martingham. Our goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Last year more than 800 tests for over 120 compounds were conducted on the water at Martingham. We want you to understand the efforts made to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

We're pleased to report that your drinking water consistently met both

Federal and State requirements. This report shows the water quality and explains what it means. If you have any questions about this report or have questions concerning your water utility, please contact **Mr. Jay Janney of Maryland Environmental Service at 410-729-8350 or jjann@menv.com**

*We want everyone to be informed
about their water.*

Public Meeting Information

For the opportunity to ask more questions or participate in decisions that may affect your drinking water quality, the Martingham Utilities Board meets the second Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

The water for Martingham comes from 2 wells in the Aquia aquifer. After the water is pumped out of the well, we add disinfectant to protect against microbial contaminants. The Maryland Department of the Environment has performed an assessment of the facility source water which is available by contacting Mr. Jay Janney at (410) 729 - 8350.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the regulated drinking water contaminants that we detected during the past several years. The presence of these compounds in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in the table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2008. The State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

Martingham Treated Water Quality Report 2008

Definitions				
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.			
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.			
Action Level	The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.			
ppm = parts per million or milligrams per liter				
ppb = parts per billion or micrograms per liter				
mrem/year = millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)				
pCi/l = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)				
Contaminant	Highest Level Allowed (EPA's MCL)	Highest Level Detected	Ideal Goal (EPA's MCLG)	Typical Sources of Contaminant
Regulated at the Treatment Plant - Corner of Martingham Cir & Deep Water Point Dr. - Plant I.D. 01				
Wells 1 & 2				
Arsenic (Range 5 - 36 ppb)	10 ppb	36 ppb**	n/a	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (2007 Testing)	4 ppm	0.31 ppm	4 ppm	Erosion of natural deposits
Selenium (2007 Testing)	50 ppb	2 ppb	50 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium (226 & 228) (2007 Testing)	5 pCi/l	0.5 pCi/l	0 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Alpha (2007 Testing)	15 pCi/l	2 pCi/l	15 pCi/l	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta (2007 Testing)	4 mrem/yr	1.84 mrem/yr	0 mrem/yr	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Regulated at the Distribution System				
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	80 ppb	6.94 ppb	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	60 ppb	1.0 ppb	n/a	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Regulated at the Consumer's Tap				
Copper	1.3 ppm (action level)	90th percentile = 0.1639 ppm	1.3 ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems
Lead	15 ppb (action level)	90th percentile = 2 ppb	0 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing fixtures and systems

** Exceed MCL for Arsenic

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain compounds in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Important Information about Arsenic:

Arsenic is a semi-metal element in the periodic table. It is odorless and tasteless and it enters drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or from agricultural and industrial practices. While your drinking water meets the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) previous arsenic standard of 50 ppb, it exceed the current limit of 10 ppb. Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. In keeping your water system in compliance with the current arsenic limit and in accordance with Article 3.1 of the arsenic rule. The Martingham Utilities Cooperative (MUC) put online a new arsenic removal Water Treatment System. MUC currently monitors arsenic on a quarterly basis. Also, the water system is constantly being reevaluated for alternatives and treatment options for reducing the arsenic levels to less than 10 ppb.